

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: May 4, 2004

Comment Period Ends: June 3, 2004

File Number: NAE -2004-694

In Reply Refer To: Zina Cassulo-Henderson Or by e-mail: zina.d.cassulo@usace.army.mil

The MG Easton Company / Mountain Grove Cemetery Association, located at 2675 North Avenue, Bridgeport, Connecticut has requested a Corps of Engineers permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to impact 2.81 acres of inland wetlands in order to develop and improve an existing cemetery. The work area is located at Harvester Road in Easton, Connecticut, as shown on the attached plans.

The work will consist of the construction and installation of four curtain drains and one interceptor swale along with the creation of interior cemetery drives to prepare certain areas for the cemetery for individual plots. The curtain drains will require 185 +/- cubic yards of traprock, the interceptor swale will require 0.4 +/- cubic yards of broken stone, and 0.3 cubic yards of pipe. The associated roadwork will require 2.7 +/- acres of wetland fill. A total 4,400 cubic yards of clean fill will also be placed in the wetlands. The purpose of the proposed fill and associated activity is to enlarge the cemeteries capacity. A vernal pool on site will be placed under a conservation easement as well as adjacent uplands.

The initial phases of this project will include the drainage improvements noted above and some of the internal roadwork. It is anticipated that the full project impacts may actually occur over a period of 100 years or more.

This project is located on the USGS Meriden quadrangle sheet at UTM coordinates 041 36 36.85 N, 072 45 7.99 W.

In order to properly evaluate the proposal, we are seeking public comment. Anyone wishing to comment is encouraged to do so. Comments should be submitted in writing by the above date. If you have any questions, please contact Zina Cassulo-Henderson (978) 318-8382, (800) 343-4789 or (800) 362-4367, if calling from within Massachusetts.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for a public hearing shall specifically state the reasons for holding a public hearing. The Corps holds public hearings for the purpose of obtaining public comments when that is the best means for understanding a wide variety of concerns from a diverse segment of the public.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS OF EVALUATION FACTORS

Robert J. DeŞista

Chief, Permits & Enforcement Branch

Regulatory Division

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which may reasonably accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural value, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain value, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Where the activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or the transportation of dredged material for the purpose of disposing it in ocean waters, the evaluation of the impact of the activity in the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act, and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 as amended.

Based on his initial review, the District Engineer has determined that the proposed work will not impact properties listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic Places. Additional review and consultation to fulfill requirements under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, will be ongoing as part of the permit review process.

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, the District Engineer is hereby requesting that the appropriate Federal Agency provide comments regarding the presence of and potential impacts to listed species or its critical habitat.

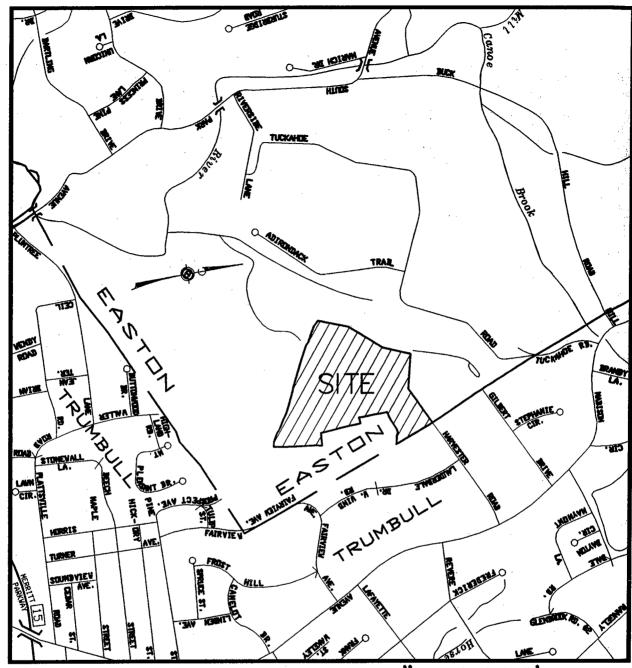
The following authorizations have been applied for, or have been, or will be obtained:

- (X) Permit, License or Assent from State.
- (X) Permit from Local Wetland Agency or Conservation Commission.
- (X) Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

The States of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island have approved Coastal Zone Management Programs. Where applicable the applicant states that any proposed activity will comply with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this Public Notice, we are requesting the State concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.

The initial determinations made herein will be reviewed in light of facts submitted in response to this notice. All comments will be considered a matter of public record. Copies of letters of objection will be forwarded to the applicant who will normally be requested to contact objectors directly in an effort to reach an understanding.

THIS NOTICE IS NOT AN AUTHORIZATION TO DO ANY WORK.



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LEGEND

WETLAND FLAG

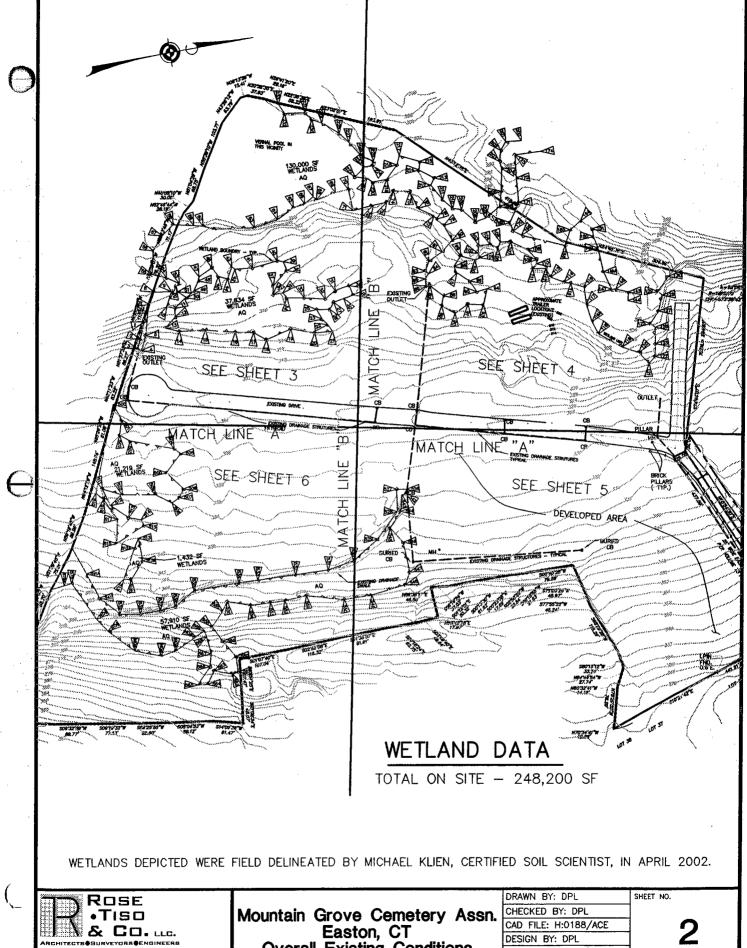
- 11. Area of Wetland Fill
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Mountain Grove Cemetery Assn. Easton, CT Vicinity Map/Index

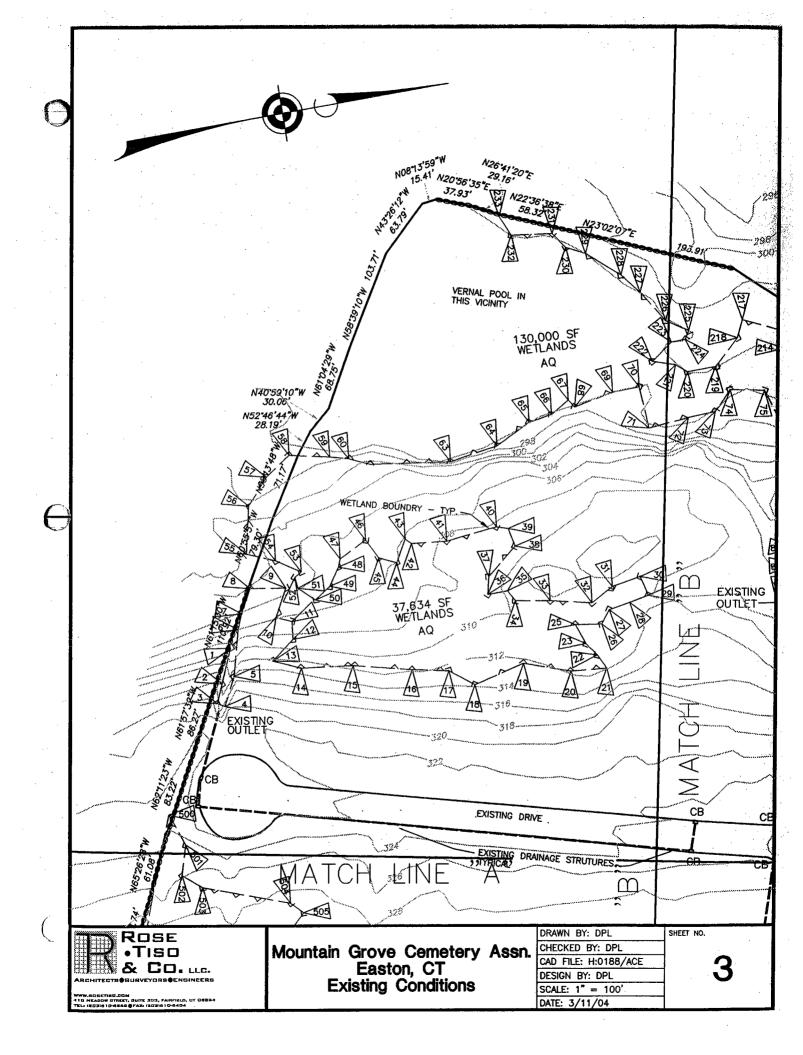
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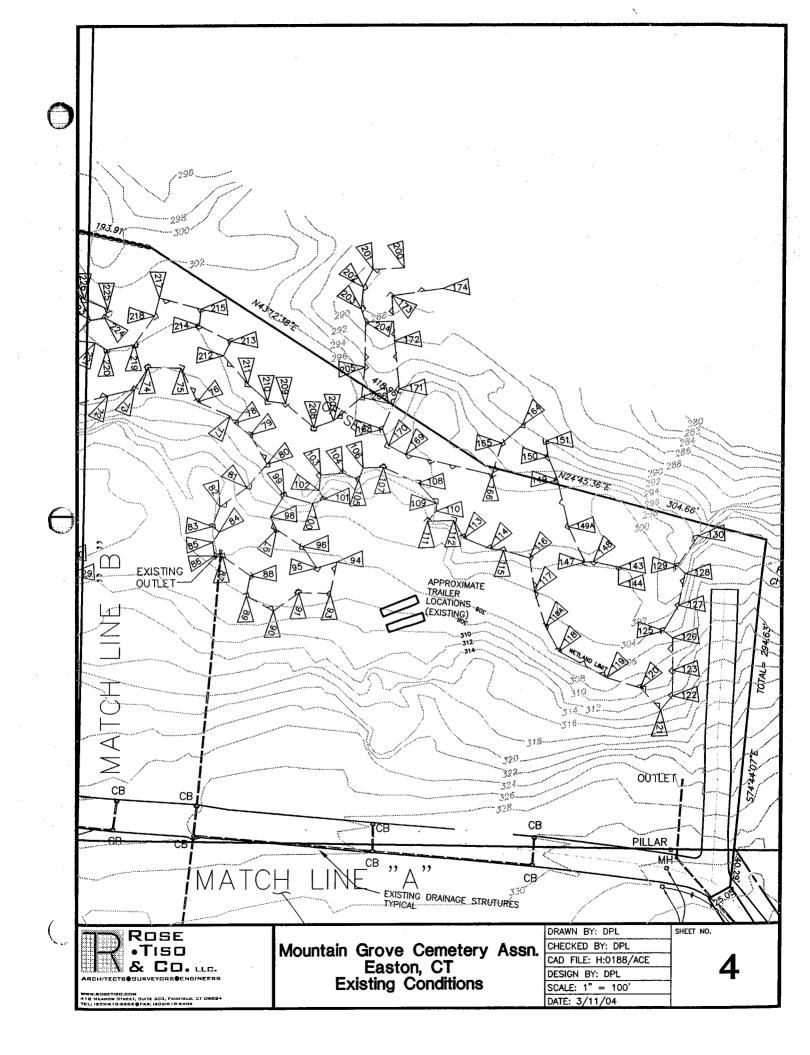
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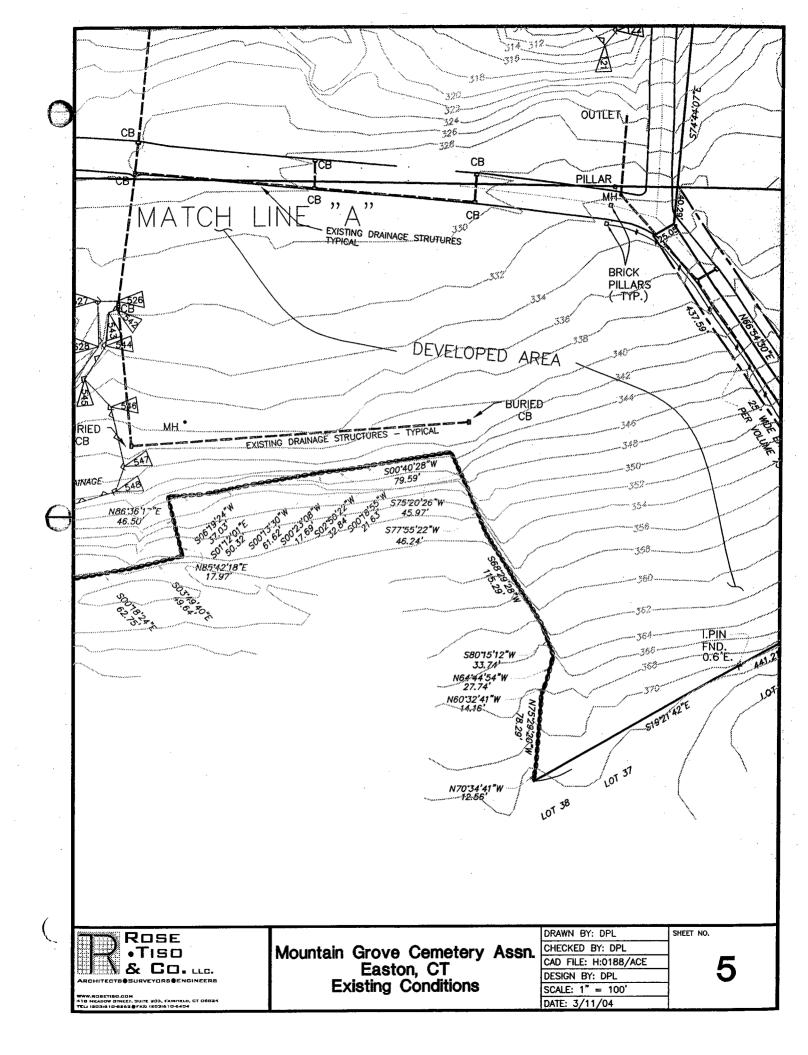


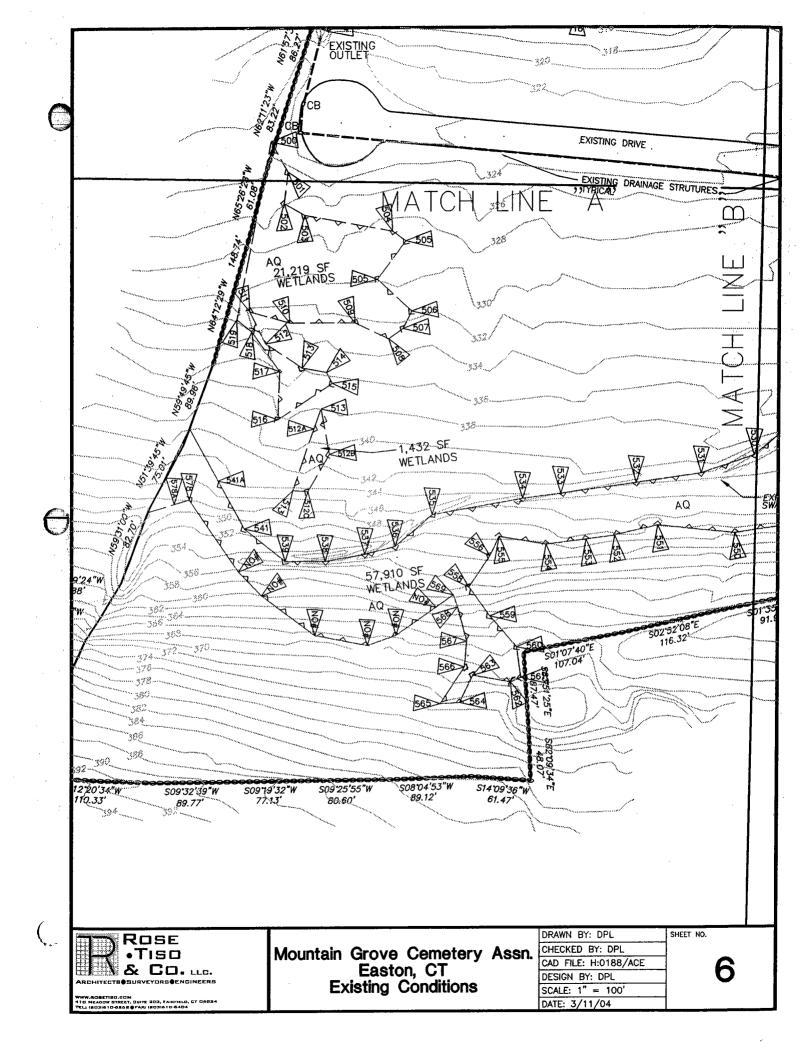
Mountain Grove Cemetery Assn.
Easton, CT
Overall Existing Conditions

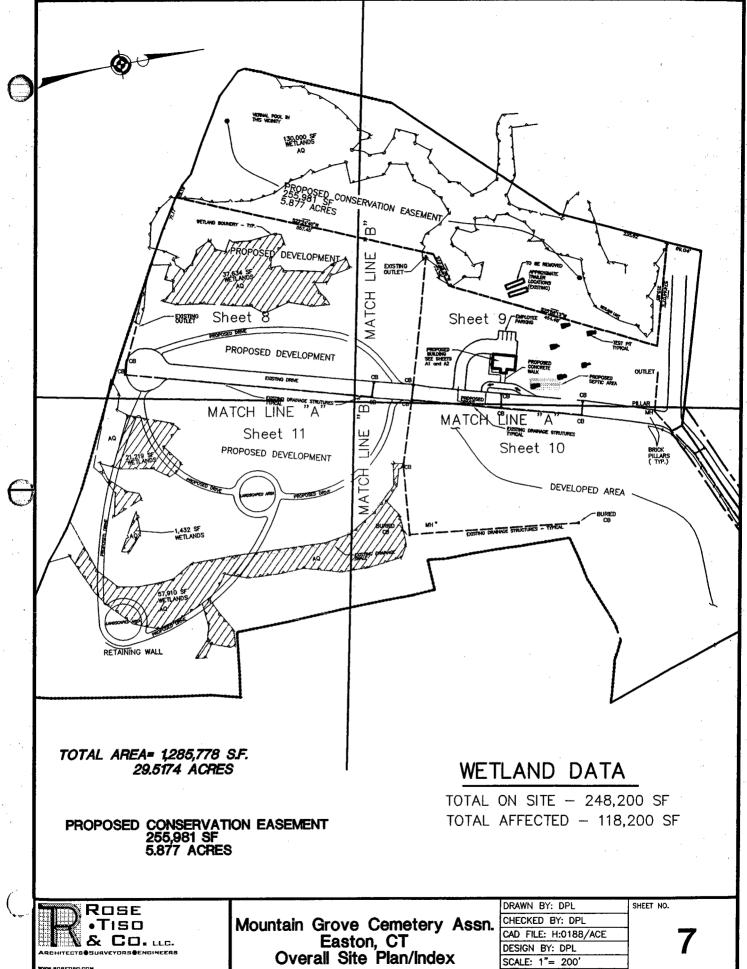
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DATE: 03/10/04

